

A 2005 Eco-Efficiency Success Story



C-Vision Ltd.
Amherst, NS

Visioning an Environmental Future Today

C-Vision Ltd. is a Canadian owned and operated electronics design and manufacturing services company. This 55,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility in Amherst, Nova Scotia has been under C-Vision ownership since 2002. C-Vision is a leader in the assembly and manufacturing of circuit boards, producing thousands of circuit boards each month for the European and North American markets. Clients include the military, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning firms, lighting companies, and companies in the energy sector. A business on the move, in 2004 C-Vision introduced over 60 new products, did four times the previous year's sales, and expanded its workforce to its current size of 77 employees. C-Vision is registered ISO 9001: 2000.

C-Vision has focused on being a strong environmental performer. Evidence of C-Vision's commitment and contributions can be seen in its active program of waste reduction which includes reducing, reusing and recycling. One of the company's largest solid waste issues has been packaging materials. C-Vision has a policy whereby it accepts packaging and containers from its customers. A percentage of this is able to be reused by C-Vision. A waste management firm collects cardboard and other recyclable materials that are not reused by the company. In the cafeteria, food waste is separated from other recyclables, and is collected by a waste management firm on a weekly basis.

One of C-Vision's most ambitious and forward-looking projects has been the move towards eliminating lead from their manufacturing processes. The standard method for mounting components on printed-circuit boards has been with a 37% lead-content solder. However, along with the increasing recognition of the toxicity of lead and the dangers of lead exposure, has come both environmental and health and safety regulations for the use of lead. C-Vision has been getting ahead of the curve on this issue, recognizing that reducing lead in their products is good for the environment, and provides an opportunity to be competitive in the world market. European directives (WEEE and RoHS) on hazardous substances will influence markets there as of July 2006. Lead-free circuit boards will also be in production for Canadian companies by the end of 2005. This lead-free manufacturing initiative has recently helped rank C-Vision as one of the top companies in Nova Scotia for global readiness, as determined in a BDC Global Readiness Study. The costs associated with these changes are in excess of CND\$1 Million. The Instrument Society of America recently published an article by Ken Kovachik, Director of Business Development at C-Vision Ltd. titled "Lead-free Readiness 101". C-Vision has also been addressing energy use within its Amherst facility. They were one of the fifteen companies participating in the Eco-Efficiency Centre's Eco-Efficiency Business Assistance Pilot Program, and have identified opportunities that can potentially save them over \$65,000 per year and reduce greenhouse gases by 700 tonnes annually.

The Eco-Efficiency Centre is pleased to recognize C-Vision Ltd. for using innovative thinking and forward looking strategies to improve their product and reduce their "ecological footprint". C-Vision is leading the way in Nova Scotia on making the link between environment and global competitiveness

